



# BIG BEND

## NATIONAL PARK

RECREATION  
VISITORS (2017)

440,276

State: **Texas**

Year Established: **1944**

Land Area: **801,163 acres**

Highest Elevation: **Emory Peak -  
7,825 feet (2,385 m)**

Plant Species in Park: **1,200+**

Notable Plant: **Big Bend Bluebonnet**

Animal Species in Park: **600+**

Notable Animal: **Javelina**



**Nearly 70 species of dinosaurs lived here 80 million years ago, while the oldest rocks in the park are about 500 million years old.**

### HISTORICAL FACTS

- Early native peoples included Chisos and Jumanos, followed by Apaches and Comanches.
- Spanish explorers entered the area in 1535 and established forts and missions.
- The region became part of Mexico in 1821 and part of the US in 1848, after the Mexican-American War.
- Ranching and mining dominated in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- The Texas legislature created a state park in 1933 and later deeded the land to the US government.

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

- The park is named for the bend in the Rio Grande river along the Texas–Mexico border.
- Natural hot springs beside the river are 105°F (40.5°C) year-round.
- The park is located within the Chihuahuan Desert.
- Big Bend has more types of birds, bats, and cacti than any other US national park.
- The park was named an International Biosphere Reserve in 1976.

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